

Remarks

Claims 1-10 are presently pending in the instant application.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Aumuller et al. (U.S. 5,714,611).

Aumuller discloses a process to prepare N,N'-bridged compounds (*see* col. 1, lines 7-9). These compounds can be prepared by reacting tetramethylpiperidine compounds with a cyclic carbonate (*see* col. 2, lines 50-60). This reaction can be carried out with a catalyst. The catalyst can be a sulfonic acid catalyst (*see* col. 6 lines 1-13). A polymer is not one of the catalyst components listed.

The Aumuller '611 patent does not disclose, and Applicants have not found a composition comprising both an acid component and a polymer.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Aumuller (U.S. 5,914,360).

The Aumuller '360 reference discloses a process to prepare N,N'-bridged bistetramethylpiperidinyll compounds (*see* Aumuller '360, col. 1, lines 8-10). This process can be carried out with a catalyst. The catalysts listed include sulfonic acid catalysts (*see* Aumuller '360, col. 6, lines 19-30). However, the catalyst does not contain a polymer, as required in the instant claims. Aumuller '360 does not disclose and Applicants have not found a catalyst containing a polymer or a catalyst useful for stabilizing polymers.

The Examiner states "Aumuller, et al. disclose an acid catalyst composition . . . , heavy metal catalysts . . . and organic catalysts . . . used in an amount from 0.01 to 25 mole percent and are used to stabilize alkyl acrylate copolymers, alkyl methacrylate copolymers and other polymers (col. 6, l. 1 – col. 7, l. 54; col. 8, l. 56 – col. 9, l. 17)." (*see* Office action, page 5, 3rd paragraph).

However, the compound Ia in the reference, (the structure of which is found in col. 7, lines 15-25) is a compound which can stabilize copolymers (*see* col. 9 lines 7-16). Compound Ia is one of the products made by the Aumuller '360 process. It would not be obvious to use the information in Aumuller '360 to deduce a catalyst containing both an acid and a polymer.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hlatky (WO 01/81436 A1).

Hlatky discloses "polymerizing one or more olefins in the presence of a single-site catalyst, an optional activator, and an ionic liquid." (*see* Hlatky, page 3, 3rd paragraph). The single site catalyst is an organometallic complex with a Group 3 to 10 metal or a lanthanide or actinide metal (*see* Hlatky, page 4, 3rd paragraph). The complex can also include polymerization-stable anionic ligands (*see* Hlatky, page 4, 4th paragraph).

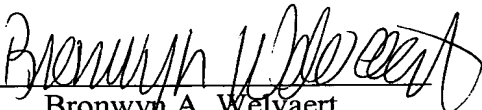
Hlatky does not disclose, and Applicants have not found, a composition comprising an acid component and a polymer.

In view of the remarks herein, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-10 is respectfully requested.

10/663.416
34019US

Respectfully submitted,

CONOCOPHILLIPS COMPANY -
I. P. LEGAL

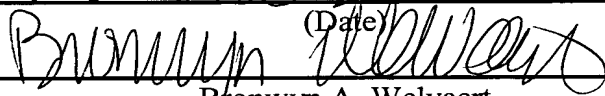
By 
Bronwyn A. Welvaert
Registration No. 52,350

BAW:adh

CONOCOPHILLIPS COMPANY - I. P. LEGAL
P.O. Box 2443
Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74005
918-661-0652

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited
with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in
an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents,
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

20 June 2005
(Date)

Bronwyn A. Welvaert